



The Advisers

BULLETIN

Published by

THE COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ADVISERS ASSOCIATION
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

Volume V

Spring 1949

Number 3

YOUR PUBLICATION IN THE PATTERN OF AMERICA'S FREE PRESS HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO SECURE THAT FREEDOM...An affirmation of values that give the school press its *raison d'être* by a former president of the CSPAA and a Gold Key adviser.

By Helen Mary-Elizabeth McCarthy

TODAY THE DYNAMIC pattern of living in these United States leaves its impress everywhere. We are directly affected not only by the maelstrom of change in which we live but discover that it has sensitized us to an examination of how the evolution influences us as thinking, responsible citizens charged with the quickening and strengthening of American democracy.

Publications advisers burdened by a welter of details which are time-consuming and exhausting are so harassed by their problems that they lose sight of the scope of influence which their publications exert. It is a concrete example of being so close to the trees that the majestic sweep of the forest against the sky passes unnoticed.

With production problems, the too-small budget which can never include those special editions, and the perpetual training of a new staff, the publications adviser is rare indeed who can keep the spark of inspired advisership bright.

Infallible antidote for the depression in the inspiration quotient to which we are all subject is an examination of publication conscience. Is your publication functioning to the fullest as a news medium to the school readership? Does it perform a service to the school by its responsible interpretation to the community of life in the school? Those are the questions which advisers have been asking since the first one took over this unique extracurricular activity early in the history of American education. There is today another element involved in the problem which presents itself to the publications adviser who turns the objective light of self-analysis upon his publication.

IS YOUR PUBLICATION, which is in the pattern of America's free press, taking positive action to secure that freedom? Affirmation is the quick response from the average adviser:

But certainly, our newspaper always pays tribute to the heroes -- to Washington and Lincoln on their birthdays...The OBSERVER never forgets to include an inspirational editorial on Armistice Day and Memorial Day...The HI-LIGHT always mentions World War II heroes in patriotic editorials to bring the subject closer to the experience of the students today.

IN THIS ISSUE

IN THE PATTERN OF A FREE PRESS

NEWS BRIEFS

THE CORNER EXCHANGE

also projects notes

EATON: GUIDE TO NEW BOOKS

And so the patriotic editorial tune plays on!

Spirited words aflame with patriotism reveal that student editors are thinking about their country and even evaluating the blessings it bestows. Such editorial matter quickens the imagination of their readers so that from time to time there are days of meditation of the wonder of freedom in the American way. And that is good, for too little time is given by either old or young to quiet thought and appraisal of the passing parade in terms of its impact upon individuals. But it is my premise that such passivity is not enough.

Student publications, heir to the heritage of freedom of the press, first appeared during the American Revolution in the British-occupied city of Philadelphia. Conceived in protest against the invader, born of a need for self-expression despite alien curbs, the young editors of the Penn Charter School published a newspaper. Surely then, in the beginning there was close relationship between love of country and the free spirit which instigated democratic action. However, here was freedom in action not lip service for the columns of this historic first school newspaper featured no patriotic pieces in its columns but by its very being manifested a free spirit.

Through the decades the school press has rolled up a record of endorsement of national issues strengthening the freedom that has built America. It is pridefully that we note the sound constructive opinion school publications have printed in times of national stress. Repeatedly it has been pointed out that in the interim periods of peace and tranquillity school editors have been guilty of falling into the identical lethargy in which all American publishers slumbered.

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME of chess which world powers are now playing is geared to a slow timetable. It has given us time for the consideration of problems which at war's end would have slipped back into the limbo of things no-longer-to-fear had not the chessmen already been placed on the board. For the first time in our history we have mobilized our resources for peace with the zeal that only the drums of war had aroused before.

Educators who had made a significant contribution in wartime once again were alerted. They focussed their attention upon the quality and fiber of zeal for American democracy. The graph of attention to the teaching of this vital subject followed the pattern of high peaks of action during national crises and low points showing diminishing interest in the days without danger.

Long-range planning to change this attitude was packaged in the Zeal for American Democracy Program sponsored by the U.S. Office of Education and the Citizens Federal Committee on Education. At a conference in Washington last year the group issued its statement of what connotes a democratic faith. It was a forthright expression by leaders representing industry, business, service clubs, labor, farm groups, religious groups, and veterans.

Throughout the country school systems turned their attention to the support of this program in well-integrated campaigns to include faculty, students and community groups. School publications were an important factor in presenting this program to their readers, often sponsoring programs in their schools. This support was to be expected for publications advisers have always had a zeal of their own for such programs. Quietly and individually they have been waging campaigns to guide their student editors in planning constructive programs to enrich school life in their sphere of influence.

SUCH A PROGRAM is one which the Columbia Scholastic Press Association set into action for the student press last November. Voluntarily and because of widespread interest on the part of our faculty advisers, the Association analyzed the National Defense Program in terms of how it affects students in classrooms today. The findings fall into the long-range and the immediate goals sought: the long-range which involves understanding of the National Defense Program in its relation to National Security and the preservation of American democracy; the immediate which calls for information programs interpreting specific aspects of the National Defense Program as it affects the students today.

Priority on the list of projects requiring immediacy of action was unanimously accorded to publicizing the Armed Forces Educational Program, designated in service abbreviations as USAFI, the United States Armed Forces Institute.

Thousands of school editors throughout the country are pledged to support this widespread educational venture in the 25th Anniversary observance of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association now in progress. In a statement issued by the Advisory Board during 1948 American Education Week, Dr. Joseph M. Murphy, Director of the CSPA, forwarded resolutions to Defense Secretary James Forrestal stating that the school press would lend a helping hand to the USAFI program. It will direct the attention of its readers throughout the country specifically to the educational opportunities available to members of the armed forces. The school publications will cooperate to the end that the program of USAFI may become well and widely known among those whom it is ultimately designed to serve."

WHEN THE FAMILIAR ring of the U.S. Treasury's Bond Drive commercial comes over the air -- *FREEDOM IS EVERYBODY'S JOB* -- feel rewarded if your publication is engaged in such an information program as the one describing USAFI. Your staff will be taking positive action to earn its place in the great American press, free voice of a free people.

Keep your program simple and tell the USAFI story to every boy so that when he enters the armed forces, either as a volunteer or as a selectee, it will be with high resolve to make the most of his military experience which he will find replete with educational opportunity.

Because your publication has made available the information he seeks about the particular training he desires, he will be prepared for the new chapter in his life. Poised and assured of the rightness of the future, he will be splendid material for today's armed forces. Intelligent in his response to military discipline because he will understand it, his satisfaction will be complete when he realizes that even his USAFI course is important to the National Defense Program.

Your publication can stimulate such forthright thinking among your student readers and their parents. It will be a real service to the boys themselves and to the ranks of men in uniform for time to come. Theirs will be a new attitude toward their military experience. They will view it as a period not of educational vacuum but one of limitless educational opportunity.

It is a challenge which every publications adviser can meet with zest -- it will kindle the park of inspired advisership into a bright flame.

NEWS BRIEFS

COLONEL HANS CHRISTIAN ADAMSON whose Guide to New Books has accompanied the last two issues of The Bulletin, is interested in making these reviews as helpful as possible to advisers and their staffs. Toward this end, he is soliciting comments and suggestions from the CSPAA membership. Whatever cooperation advisers can give to this project will be appreciated both by Colonel Adamson and the Association. The reviews are contributed by Colonel Adamson to the CSPAA and are offered by the Association as an aid to advisers in guiding the reading of students in the field of contemporary writing.

WORD OF THE RECENT death of Mrs. Adeline Woodruff brings profound regret to the CSPAA. Mrs. Woodruff died February 8 at her home in Van Hornesville, New York, after a short illness. Second Vice President of the Adviser's Association, she was also a Gold Key adviser whose interest and service in the school press field has been highly valued.

TWO NEW DIVISIONAL chairmen were appointed by the Director at a recent meeting of the Advisory Board of the CSPAA. Rev. S. Oley Cutler, S.J. heads the Catholic Schools division and Mrs. Robin Marshall the Junior College division. Mrs. Marshall is public relations director at the New Haven YMCA Junior College, New Haven, Connecticut. Rev. Mr. Cutler is faculty adviser to the publication division and moderator of the yearbook at Xavier High School, New York City.

GIVEN IMPETUS BY exhibits arranged in Munich last summer under the auspices of the CSPA, papers from German schools -- published for the first time in history -- were sent here for the 25th Anniversary Convention. Papers from Egypt and India and from Army and Navy posts all over the world were also on exhibition.

ACCORDING TO RECENT tabulations, membership in the Columbia Scholastic Advisers Association is now 1166 advisers.

ADVISERS AIR THEIR VIEWS

A New Feature suggested in replies to a questionnaire for which advisers are requested to send material directly to the editor at 2038 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

HOW THE YEARBOOK ADVISER FROM A GIRLS' WE Academy in New York state writes: "I DO am making an earnest effort to de- IT velop an unusual and interesting theme for our yearbook. I would like to have the theme center around the topic *Democracy and How It Is Connected with the Life and Activities of Our High School*. We have a program of many extra-curricular activities and a fine athletic program from which I feel that I can derive many points by using the subject of Democracy as the theme."

CONCERNING STUDENT INTEREST, a newspaper and yearbook adviser from Indiana says: "We do not have the point system in our school; consequently, my staff members accept many positions in other groups. They undertake too much, spreading themselves too thin, despite all some of us teachers can say against this practice. However, one of my associate editors is starting a crusade for the point system. Maybe our paper can put across what some of us teachers have failed to do."

THE PROBLEM OF STAFF is met by a high-school newspaper adviser from Missouri

this way: "Since I have two classes at one time -- (1) the trained staff and (2) the new staff or cubs -- I am allowed one class period of 40 minutes daily to work on our weekly newspaper. The staff in all consists of about 25 old and new members. Pupils in the class do all the typing, proofreading, headlines, etc. They volunteer to come to my room during their free or study periods. Since I teach three other classes, I am swamped all the time. We NEVER stay after school -- too many work. I suppose this is an obstacle forever in my path, but I do have an INVITATION CLASS -- only the best citizens and scholars may ask to come in and those the faculty recommend and I invite."

COPING WITH RISING COSTS, a Connecticut adviser reveals: "We have met the problem of financing this year by cutting the six commercially printed issues of our newspaper to four and doing the other two ourselves on the school ditto machine. We hope another year to have enough alumni subscribers to go back to the six-issue basis."

The Advisers BULLETIN

Volume V, No. 3

Spring 1949

Published four times yearly by the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers Association, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y.

CSPAA Officers

President.....Mary E. Murray
Allegany High, Cumberland, Md.
First Vice President.....Rowena Harvey
South Side High, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Second Vice President.....
Third Vice President.....John H. McCoy
Occidental College, Los Angeles, Calif.
Secretary-Treasurer.....Bryan Barker
Mercersburg Academy, Pa.
* * *
Anne M. Slick,.....Bulletin Editor
Upper Darby Senior High, Pa.

EDITOR'S MEMO

Many of the questionnaires being returned to The Advisers Bulletin indicate that financing and matters of editorial policy are of considerable concern to advisers at present. Plans are to cover these topics in the next two issues of the Bulletin. FINANCING A WELL ROUNDED PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM -- NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINE, YEARBOOK will be discussed by Clayton K. Shenk, chairman of the Board of Publications at Upper Darby Senior High School, in the next issue. The following Bulletin will present THE LAWS OF LIBEL AS THEY APPLY TO THE SCHOOL PRESS by Mario de Orchis, attorney at law.

REPORTS FROM THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION WILL ALSO BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

